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Field Operations Section

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Environmental Protection Agency
State of Illinois

ANTHONY T. DEAN
DIRECTOR

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
605 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
400 SOUTH SPRING ST.
SPRINGFIELD 62706

HAROLD L. ELLSWORTH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CHICAGO OFFICE—ROOM 100, 160 N. LA SALLE ST., 60601

September 22, 1975

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



298870

Environmental Protection Agency
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Attention: Bureau of Stream Pollution

Gentlemen:

Enclosed we submit Report of Pollution-Caused Fish Kill Investigation of Scattering Fork in Douglas County, on September 3 & 4, 1975.

Sincerely,

Mike Conlin

Mike Conlin, Chief
Division of Fisheries

MC:ec
Enclosure

Illinois Department of Conservation

Division of Fisheries

**Report of Pollution Caused Fish Kill Investigation
of the
Scattering Fork in Douglas County
on
September 3-4, 1975**

Submitted by

**Richard A. Rogers
District Fishery Biologist
Charleston, Illinois
September 5, 1975**

R/c

**Report of Pollution Caused Fish Kill Investigation
of the
Scattering Fork in Douglas County
on
September 3-4, 1975**

On September 3 at 4:30 PM, I received a telephone call from Rod Horner, fishery biologist in Monticello, informing me that a fish kill had been reported on Scattering Fork at the Filson Road bridge by Howard Sylvester of Arcola. I then immediately contacted the Champaign office of the E.P.A. (Cal Locker) by phone.

I arrived at the Filson Road bridge at 6:00 PM on September 3 and was joined soon after by Tim Bachman and Tom Smith of the Champaign office of the E.P.A. The stream had a milky-colored precipitate flowing in the water and white-colored unnatural stream deposits were present. The pH was 11.1. Several dead minnows were present. A 100 foot station was measured (Station #1) and the dead minnows were counted within the station. Several live minnows were present and a few minnows in distress were seen.

At 6:25 PM we arrived at a bridge (T15N, R8E, Sec. 12, NW¼) located two miles upstream from Station #1. Thick white-colored unnatural stream deposits were present and the pH was 9.0. Dead minnows were present and a 100 foot station was measured (Station #2) and the dead fish counted. A few dead crayfish were present and several live minnows were seen within the station.

At 6:40 PM we arrived at a bridge (T15N, R8E, Sec. 2, SW¼) located 1½ miles upstream from Station #2. Stream is only three feet wide and about three inches deep in this area. Thick orange and white-colored unnatural stream deposits were present. The pH was 8.0. No live or dead fish were found.

At 7:00 PM we arrived at a large tile outlet which forms the beginning of this stream (T15N, R8E, Sec. 3, NW¼). Thick orange and white-colored unnatural stream deposits were present. No live or dead fish were found.

Tim Bachman then went to a chemical plant which empties into this tile to investigate possible source of pollution and I went to the Rt. 130 bridge to see if the fish kill had gone that far.

At 7:40 PM I arrived at the Rt. 130 bridge and found no dead fish. Live fish were present and none were in distress. The pH was 8.7. No unnatural stream deposits were present. The water was covered with a brownish-green scum which appeared to be dying filamentous algae. I then went home because it was getting too dark to proceed.

At 3:30 PM on September 4 I stopped at the first bridge (T15N, R9E, Sec. 16, NW¼) downstream from Station #1. There was a brownish-green scum on the water which appeared to be dying filamentous algae. Only a very small amount of white-colored unnatural stream deposit was present. A few dead minnows were present and a 100 foot station was measured (Station #3). Several live minnows were seen and none were in distress.

Scattering Fork
Fish Kill Investigation
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At 3:40 PM I arrived at the next bridge (T15N, R9E, Sec. 16, NE1/4) downstream from Station #3. No dead or distressed fish were seen. Live fish were numerous. No unnatural stream deposits were seen. The water was nearly covered with the brownish-green scum which appeared to be dying filamentous algae. I talked to a fisherman at this bridge who was catching sunfish. She said that she hadn't seen any dead fish. She also said that she had fished here last night and had caught several bullheads and did not notice any dead fish then either.

The fish kill area extended from Station #2 located two miles upstream from the Filson Road Bridge to Station #3 located one mile below the Filson Road Bridge (3 miles total). There were an estimated 3,849 minnows killed valued at \$115.47.

RAH/ah

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF FISHERIES

REPORT OF POLLUTION-CAUSED FISH KILL

County Douglas
Nearest Town Tuscola
Date September 3-4, 1975

WATER (name) Scattering Fork
Owner Many

Address _____

1. Reported by Howard Sylvester, Arcola, Illinois Date Sept. 3, 1975
2. Persons contacted: Tim Bachman and Tom Smith, both from the Champaign office of the E.P.A.

3. Environmental Engineer Notified: Date: Sept. 3, 1975 Time 4:30 PM
Name Cal Locker Address Champaign

4. Source of pollution:

A. AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

- ☐ Poisons (herbicides, pesticides, etc.)
☐ Fertilizers
☐ Manure drainage, ensilage liquors, or feed lot operations

- ☐ Handling of equipment and containers

B. INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS

- ☐ Mining
☐ Food & kindred products
☐ Paper & allied products
☒ Rubber & Plastic
☒ Chemicals
☐ Petroleum
☐ Metals
☐ Textiles

- ☐ Other (specify) _____

C. MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

- ☐ Sewerage system
☐ Refuge disposal
☐ Water system
☐ Swimming Pool
☐ Power (Public service)
☐ Pest control

D. TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS

- ☐ Rail
☐ Truck
☐ Construction
☐ Other _____
☐ Air
☐ Barge or boat
☐ Pipeline
☐ Unknown

H. SPECIFIC AGENT OR CAUSE IF KNOWN _____

5. Type of Fish Killed: Game: 0 %
Non-Game: 100 %
Total: 100

What percent of the above two types are commercial: 0 %

6. Estimated total number of fish killed: 3,849 Value: \$ 115.47

7. Severity: ☐ Total ☐ Heavy ☐ Moderate ☒ Light

8. Extent: Area of fish kill (miles or acres) 3 miles

9. Duration of critical effect: 1 Days _____ Hours

10. Sampling station locations:

Station Number	Location				Time	Remarks
	County	Township	Range	1/4 Section		
<u>1</u>	<u>Douglas</u>	<u>15N</u>	<u>9E</u>	<u>18, NE1/4</u>	<u>6 PM (Sept. 3)</u>	<u>Unnatural stream deposits; pH - 11</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Douglas</u>	<u>15N</u>	<u>8E</u>	<u>12, NW1/4</u>	<u>6:25 PM (Sept. 3)</u>	<u>Unnatural stream deposits; pH - 9.0</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Douglas</u>	<u>15N</u>	<u>9E</u>	<u>16, NW1/4</u>	<u>3:30 PM (Sept. 4)</u>	<u>Brownish-green scum on water</u>

11. Additional comments: White and orange colored unnatural stream deposits were present, water was a milky color, and pH values were above normal.

12. Date of Report Sept. 5, 1975 Biologist: Richard A. Rogers

FISH COLLECTION

WATER (name) ocallaghan fork

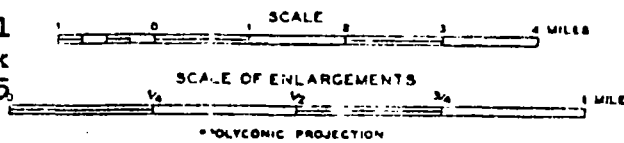
Area of fish kill: Miles or acres 3 Length in feet 15,840

Multiplying factor obtained by taking average length (or area) of all stations divided into total length (or area) affected.

[illegible]

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

Report of Pollution Caused Fish Kill
Investigation of the Scattering Fork
in Douglas County on Sept. 3-4, 1975



— FISH KILL AREA

